



## National Planning Improvement Framework

Attribute 10: The planning authority has effective engagement and collaboration with stakeholders and communities

# Engagement and collaboration with Stakeholders and Communities



The Council endeavors to involve and collaborate with local communities, public bodies and other stakeholders at all relevant stages of the planning process.

The Planning Authority produces an annual Development Plan Scheme, including a Participation Statement, which acts as a strategy for engagement activities. The most recent Development Plan Scheme and accompanying Participation Statement were published online on 24th May and were open for public consultation until 21st June. As the Council is currently at the very start of the production process for Local Development Plan 3, with LDP2 having been adopted earlier this year, the Participation Statement sets out the various stages at which communities and other stakeholders will be engaged in the development of LDP3, the main stages being: engagement to inform the Evidence Report; engagement to inform the Proposed Plan; and engagement on the Proposed Plan.

With regards to engagement on planning applications, Development Management follow the processes set out in legislation, while also providing advice to applicants through the major application pre-application process in respect of appropriate community engagement for that formal pre-application consultation and that is detailed in Attribute 9.

The Council has plans to make use of the Place Standard Tool as part of early engagement for LDP3. A variation of the tool will be used at in-person sessions to inform the Evidence Report and it will also be incorporated into the online engagement content to be made available on the Council's new Engagement HQ platform.

As set out in the Participation Statement, the Council have plans in place for ensuring that the engagement activities for LDP3 will encourage the participation of people from all demographics and equality groups and will be representative of local communities.

No Local Place Plans have yet been submitted within the Local Planning Authority area, and East Ayrshire Council has not yet issued its formal invitation for Local Place Plans for Local Development Plan 3, which will be the Planning Authority's first 'new style' plan. However, there is a process in place: Local Development Plan 2 (adopted in April 2024) includes two policies for Local Place Plans (LPP1 and LPP2) which set out how the Council will continue to support the production of Place Plans through the adopted plan period and into the next plan. As per policy LPP1, where a LPP meets stated criteria including alignment with policies and allocations contained within LDP2, the Council will adopt the Place Plan as Supplementary Planning Guidance to support LDP2. Alternatively, on the basis of the Town and Country Planning (Local Place Plans) (Scotland) Regulations, communities may opt to produce a Local Place Plan that is not in accord with LDP2; whilst this would not be adopted as Supplementary Guidance it would nevertheless be added to the Council's Local Place Plan register (assuming it meets all statutory requirements) and taken into account in the preparation of LDP3.

# Improvement Action Plan (Engage theme)

(1=Making excellent progress, 5= No progress)

Attribute	Score
9. This planning authority has good customer care	3
10 The planning authority has effective engagement and collaboration with stakeholders and communities.	3

Based on the grading above, the following areas of improvement have been identified. Their level of importance (High/ Medium/ Low) and by when (short – 1 Year/ medium – 3 Years/ long term – 3+ Years).

Improvement Action	Owner	Importance	Timescale	Resources
Attribute 9: Review our chargeable pre application service and the use of Processing Agreements. We will seek to work across Council departments and with external and internal consultees to deliver an improved and streamlined service that provides applicants with a better and more complete service that is more interactive and can deliver greater certainty earlier in the process to enable them to incorporate feedback prior to submission of their application. This will assist in improving the quality of development and decision making.	Planning Services	Medium	Medium	Service Managers/ Team Leaders

Attribute 9: Hold a meeting with agents for householder and local development in terms of validation and registration of applications and customer service.	Planning Service	Medium	Medium	Service Managers/Team Leaders
Attribute 10: Promote the use of Engagement HQ for consultation with communities and other service departments and external stakeholders.	Planning Service	Low	Short	All Planning Staff
Attribute 10: Engage with communities on Local Place Plans and Community Action Plans and how these will interface with LDP3. Pilot with a community to develop different approaches to consultation moving away from traditional drop-in events to ensure communities are listen to and actions are publicised.	Development Planning	High	Long	Development Planning Team